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## KHPA Honored by Institute for Health and Productivity Management

### *Receives Value-Based Health Award for Programs that Promote Prevention and Wellness*

The Kansas Health Policy Authority has been named a winner of the 2008 *Value-Based Health (VBH) Award* by the Institute for Health and Productivity Management. The award recognizes KHPA for innovative strategies in the 2009 employee health plan that are designed to control costs by promoting healthy lifestyles and personal responsibility.

The new state employee health plan will take effect Jan. 1, 2009. Highlights of the plan include:

- Incentives for tobacco users to stop smoking and for non-smokers to remain smoke free;
- A wellness plan, **HealthQuest**, with free annual health screening, a financial incentive for taking a personal health assessment, and 24 hour-a-day, 7 day-a-week health coaching;
- Reducing co-pays for diabetes and asthma medications;
- Information from the state pharmacy benefit manager about cost-effective drug use;
- Outreach by health care providers to plan members who suffer from chronic health conditions.

The VBM award was presented Oct. 15 to Doug Farmer, State Employee Health Plan Director, at the IHPM's Eighth Annual International Conference in Scottsdale, Ariz.

KHPA's executive director Marcia Nielsen said: "We are honored to receive this award from IHPM. Our State Employee Health Plan staff takes great pride in serving their fellow employees. They strive to manage the health plan in ways that benefit all of its members and their families. Value-based benefit design presents an exciting opportunity for state employees and their dependents to use various self-management tools to manage their chronic conditions and improve their health."

Sean Sullivan, president of IHPM, said: "KHPA joins the ranks of last year's distinguished winners – Intel, Procter & Gamble, and Marriott Corp. – as a leader at the expanding value-based movement that is transforming health benefits and programs from costs to investments in their human capital."

For more information about IHPM, please visit their website: <http://www.ihipm.org>.

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